Statement

The undertaking-wise details of the profit before tax for the years 1989-90 *and* 1990-91 *are as follows*:

Rs. in crore

Sl. No.	Name of the PSU	1989-90	1990-91
1	HAL	34.07	48.68
2	BEL	41.39	53.97
3	BEML	65.51	67.14
4	MDL	(—)3.13	3.21
5	GRSE	5.98	17.52
6	GSL	7.14	13.67
7	BDL	17.52	6.62
8	MIDHANI	0.54	0.57
	TOTAL	169.02	211.38

Recruitment in Army

382. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been a steep fall in army recruitment from 1983-84 till date ;

(b) what has been the annual recruitment level in 1990-91 and how it compares with 1983-84 ; and

(c) what specific steps are being taken to attract right candidate for recruitment in defence forces ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR) : (a) and (b) Recruitment to Army in a particular year is decided on the basis of vacancies arising due to discharge, retirements etc. besides requirements due to new raisings, if any. It is not desirable to disclose actual recruitment figures in public interest.

(c) Response to recruitment into the Army has been overwhelming in the last decade. There has been no shortfall in intake since 1983-84. To ensure recruitment of the best candidates, physical examination, written test, interviews/aptitude tests and medical examination are conducted and selections are made strictly on merit.

Explosion in Ordnance Factory, Aravankadu

383. SHRI S. MADHAVAN :

SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether any explosion occurred at the Ordnance Factory at Aravankadu in Tamil Nadu State in May, 1992 ;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof ;

(c) whether any enquiry was conducted to find out the reasons for the explosion and if so, what is the outcome of such enquiry ;

(d) what are the details of damage to life and property ; and

(e) what are the details of compensation paid to the deceaseds' families and to injured people ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The explosion accident occurred in the Washing House of Nitroglycerine manufacturing Unit of Cordite Factory.

(c) Yes, Sir. An enquiry has been conducted by a Board of Inquiry. The recommendations of the Board of Inquiry along with the comments of the Ordnance Factory Board are under consideration of Government.

(d) Six factory employees lost their lives. The loss to property and material has been assessed at about Rs. 14 lakhs.

(e) Details are given in the Statement. (See below).